

Adult Smoking

Since the passage of Proposition 99 in 1988, the adult smoking prevalence in California has declined significantly from 22.8% in 1988 to 17.4% in 2001, as measured by the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS)/California Adult Tobacco Survey (CATS).

In viewing the adult smoking trend, it is important to note that the revised current smoker definition developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was used beginning in 1996. This resulted in the inclusion of more occasional smokers and thus raised prevalence estimates by 1-2 percentage points in 1996 and subsequent years.

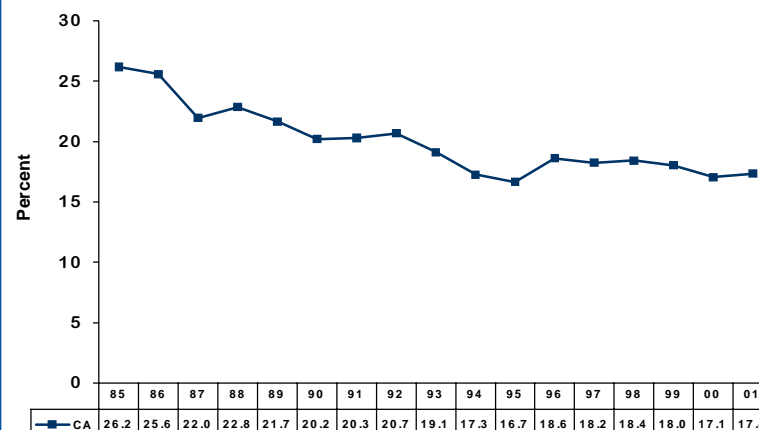
Adult Prevalence

- The California adult smoking prevalence was 17.4% in 2001.
- Since the passage of Proposition 99 in 1988, the adult smoking prevalence decreased by about 25%. Most of this decline occurred between 1988 and 1995.
- Based on the 2000 adult population, there are approximately 4.2 million current adult smokers in California.

Adult Prevalence by Age

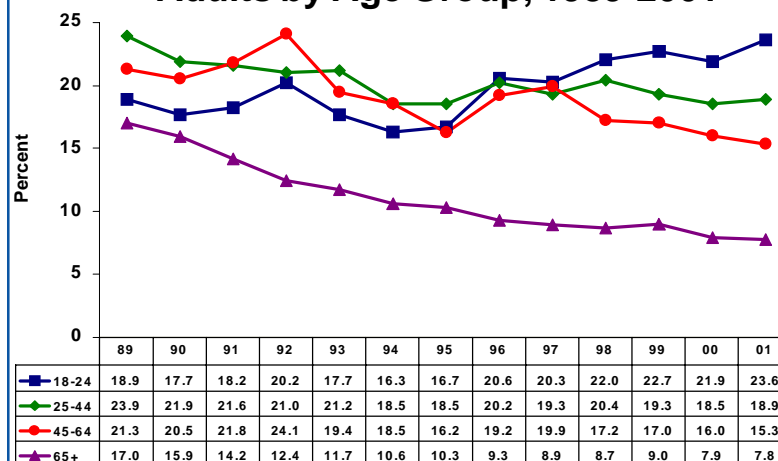
- After 1995, the 18–24 age group exhibited the greatest increase in smoking prevalence rates among the four groups. It is the only group with a trend that has continued to rise after 1998.
- The prevalence in the 45–64 age group declined from the highest smoking prevalence rates in 1989 to the second lowest prevalence rates in 2001.
- The 65+ age group had the lowest prevalence and a declining trend throughout the 13-year period.

California Adult Smoking Prevalence, 1985-2001



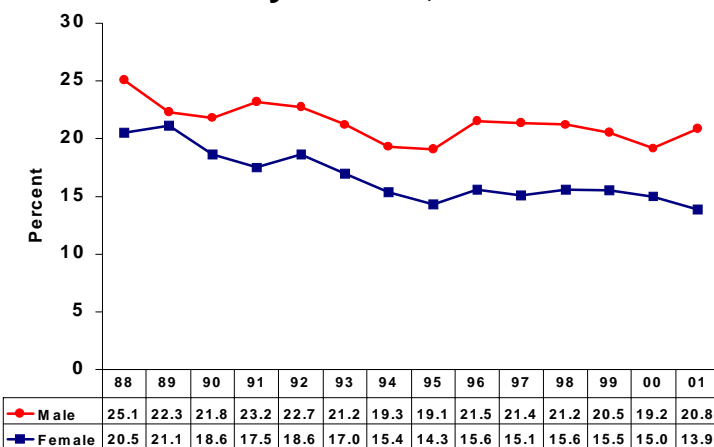
Source: BRFS 1985 - 1992 CATS/BRFS, 1993 - 2001 is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Note definitional change of smoker in 1996 to include more occasional smokers.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

Smoking Prevalence among California Adults by Age Group, 1989-2001



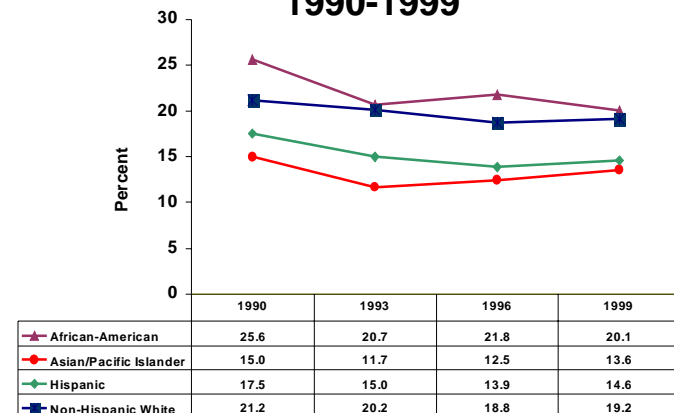
Source: BRFS 1985 - 1992 CATS/BRFS, 1993 - 2001 is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Note definitional change of smoker in 1996 to include more occasional smokers.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

Smoking Prevalence among California Adults by Gender, 1988-2001



Source: BRFS 1988 - 1992 CATS/BRFS, 1993 - 2001 is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Note definitional change of smoker in 1996 to include more occasional smokers.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

Age-adjusted Smoking Prevalence among California Adults by Race/Ethnicity Group, 1990-1999



Source: CTS, Screener Survey, 1990, 1993, 1996, and 1999 are weighted to the 1996 California population.
Note definitional change of smoker in 1996 to include more occasional smokers.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

Adult Prevalence by Gender

- The smoking prevalence rates declined for both males and females since 1988.
- The prevalence of smoking among adult males and females had similar trends from 1992 to 2000 and then diverged in 2001.

About the Surveys

The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (1984-present) and the California Adult Tobacco Survey (1993-present) are random digit-dial telephone surveys of 8,000 adults conducted annually by the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Unit of the Cancer Surveillance Section of the CDHS. Data have been weighted to the 1990 California population using gender, 4 race and 2 age groups.

The California Tobacco Surveys (CTS) (1990, 1992-1993, 1996, 1999), funded by the Tobacco Control Section of the CDHS, were conducted by the Cancer Prevention and Control Program of the University of California, San Diego. The California Tobacco Survey is a very large-scale telephone survey that includes a screener survey, an adult extended survey and a youth survey.

Adult Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity

- African Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites had the highest smoking prevalence rates followed by Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders. Smoking prevalence in all groups declined from 1990 to 1993, but remained relatively flat from 1993 to 1999.

- Table 1 shows that the greatest decline in prevalence occurred among African American women.
- Table 1 shows that the prevalence rates among Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic females were less than half the rates of their male counterparts.

Table 1
California Adult Smoking Prevalence,
Race/Ethnicity within Gender

	1990	1993	1996	1999
Male				
African American	27.6	23.8	23.8	25.0
Asian	22.2	17.9	17.8	21.6
Hispanic	23.3	21.0	19.2	22.9
Non-Hispanic White	22.8	21.4	20.3	20.6
Female				
African American	23.9	18.2	20.1	16.5
Asian	8.2	5.8	7.5	6.9
Hispanic	11.6	8.9	8.8	9.5
Non-Hispanic White	19.8	19.0	17.4	18.2

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